

REMARKS

In response to the election requirement, claims 1-10 are elected and non-elected claims 11-20 are canceled without prejudice. The applicant intends to file a divisional application to prosecute the non-elected claims. New claims 21-39 are added. Claims 1-10 and 21-39 are pending in the application.

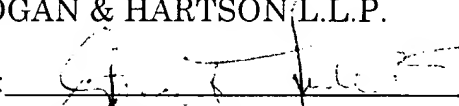
It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON, L.L.P.

Date: December 19, 2001

By: 
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